Alumni College XXVII
August 28–September 1, 2002

It is a truism that the terrorist attacks of last September forever changed life in America. But the issues that led to the terrorist attacks are neither new nor exclusively American. Two of this year's Alumni College courses consider a key issue—the relationship between religion and politics—from two very different perspectives. Marc Witkin's *Sophocles' Theban Plays* considers the debate in fifth-century B.C.E. Athens; *Religion and Conflict in the Middle East* examines the relationship between religion and nationalism in the seemingly endless conflict between Israeli and Palestinian Arabs.

For those who are interested in contemporary issues, but would like to shift their focus from the "war on terrorism," we offer David Colander's *The Economy and the Congressional Elections,* and Mark Williams's and Miguel Fernández's course on U.S.-Latin American relations, *Through a Glass Darkly*. And for those who would like a break from political and economic issues, we offer courses that celebrate two of the best things about America: its natural setting and its national game. John Elder's *Reading and Writing the Mountains,* combines hiking in the Green Mountains with nature writing, and Karl Lindholm's *Baseball and America,* explores the relationship between American culture and baseball.

FACULTY

David Colander, who joined the Middlebury faculty in 1982, is the author of 30 books, including *Economics*, one of the top-selling principles of economics texts. He also is the author of *Why Aren't Economists as Important as Garbagemen?*, a humorous and provocative examination of the economics profession. A past president of the Eastern Economics Association, Dave is returning from a 2001-02 leave during which he assumed the position of Kelley Professor of Distinguished Teaching at Princeton.

John Elder, who will be beginning his 30th year of teaching at Middlebury, returns to teach a new version of a highly successful Alumni College course offered a few summers ago. John's teaching and writing focus on the connection between literature and nature. His two most recent books, *Reading the Mountains of Home* and *The Frog Run*, explore the mountains around Middlebury. Natural history, human community, education, and family life are the core elements in his sense of place.

Miguel Fernández '85 returned to his alma mater 10 years later to teach in the Spanish department. His teaching and research interests include nineteenth-century and twentieth-century Latin American literature and cultures, particularly the intersections between literary, cultural, and historical discourses. He currently is working on a series of articles on popular literature in Latin America during the "years of national organization" (1852-1880).

Karl Lindholm '67 has been at Middlebury for 25 years, serving as Dean of "this 'n that," and teaching in the Department of American Literature and Civilization. His Alumni College course is based on his popular American civilization elective, "Baseball, Literature, and American Culture," as well as drawing from his first-year seminar, "Segregation in America: Baseball's Negro Leagues." Karl writes regular essays on sports for the *Addison Independent* newspaper, and currently is working on a biography of William Clarence Matthews, a black baseball pioneer and political figure.

Mark Williams joined Middlebury's political science department in 1994 and currently serves as director of the International Politics and Economics program. His course offerings span three of the four political science sub-fields: international politics, comparative politics, and American politics. His recent book, *Market Reforms in Mexico: Coalitions, Institutions, and the Politics of Policy Change,* compares the Mexican government's successful implementation of economic reforms with its failed attempts to implement economically oriented environmental policy reforms.

Marc Witkin joined the faculty in 1988, and has chaired the classics department since 1996. His specialty is ancient political thought, particularly Plato and the fifth-century B.C.E. Greek historians Herodotus and Thucydides. Marc also teaches Greek and Latin language courses, as well as courses on both Greek and Roman literature and philosophy. Outside of the classics department, Marc is best known among students for CL152, his highly-stimulating course on Greek Tragedy, from which his Alumni College course has been drawn.

The faculty for *Religion and Conflict in the Middle East* includes a specialist on Judaism, **Robert Schine**, Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Religion; **Gregory Gause**, Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science, an expert on Middle East politics; **Russell Leng**, **'60**, James Jermain Professor of Political Economy and International Law, who specializes in diplomacy and negotiation; **Janine Zacharia '95**, the Washington correspondent for the *Jerusalem Post*; and **Frank Nicosia**, Professor of History, who teaches courses on Middle East history at St. Michael's College.

Middlebury College

Alumni College XXVII

For alumni, parents, and friends

August 28 through September 1, 2002

"I don't see how the course I took could be improved. It was phenomenal."

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Through a Glass Darkly: Perspectives on U.S.-Latin American Relations

Miguel Fernández, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Mark Williams, Associate Professor of Political Science

What is the future of the historically sensitive relationship between the United States and its Latin American neighbors? Have the end of the Cold War and the rise of globalization launched a new era in US-Latin American relations? What does the past tell us about the future? We will examine these questions from both US and Latin American perspectives, as we consider old and new issues, including the "intermestic" agenda composed of trade, immigration, and drugs. We also will examine the region's key relationships—between the United States and Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, and Latin American militaries. There will be a Spanish table at meals for those who are interested.

The Economy and the Congressional Elections

David Colander, Christian A. Johnson Professor of Economics

This course considers economic issues likely to affect the Congressional elections in November. Our reading will be from selected articles in the popular economics press, such as *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times*, that provide differing views on these issues. The issues could include: The shortest recession on record: Who is responsible? What should be done about the turmoil in international financial markets? The fight over social security. Why did the stock market crash and whom will it help? Or, how long will the stock market boom continue and whom will it help?

Reading and Writing the Mountains

John Elder, Stewart Professor of English and Environmental Studies

Each day, we will combine a hike with readings, nature study, and journal writing. Our goals, in addition to enjoying the lovely terrain around Bread Loaf, will be to perceive the Vermont landscape more discerningly and to write about it vividly. Please note, though, that a couple of our outings will be strenuous day hikes on mountain trails. *Please bring a note with you confirming that you are capable of hiking for hours in the mountains.*

"Alumni College stimulates the brain and brings together a wonderful group of people in a lovely setting."

Baseball and America

Karl Lindholm, Assistant Professor of American Literature

Did God invent baseball? Well, we know it wasn't Abner Doubleday. Billy Graham once said that meeting Babe Ruth was his greatest thrill since converting to Christ. Bart Giamatti called baseball "the Romance Epic of homecoming America sings to itself." What is the source of baseball's power and sway over the mind and spirit of Americans? Unlike any other sport, baseball has produced a literature of depth and quality. Why? This class swings for the fences with an intense study of the game, including its literature, its myths and heroes (black and white alike), its physical essence (bring your glove!), and its enormous cultural significance to America.

Sophocles' Theban Plays: Religion and Politics in Athenian Democracy

Marc Witkin, Associate Professor of Classics

The great plays of Sophocles are known for their exploration of universal moral issues and human tragedy, but they also engage in a political debate that raged in fifth-century B.C.E. Athens, resurfaced in the Enlightenment, and now is at the center of the confrontation between America and Islamic fundamentalism. That debate concerns the relationship between religion and politics and between religion and rationalism. A thoughtful defense of our way of life has much to gain from reopening this debate, which was begun in pre-scientific Athens by its tragic poets and then elaborated by its philosophers. We will read and discuss three of Sophocles' plays: *Oedipus the King*, *Antigone*, and *Oedipus at Colonus* in an attempt to identify one of the ancient roots of our modern self-understanding.

Religion and Conflict in the Middle East

Gregory Gause, Russell Leng '60, Robert Schine, Frank Nicosia, and Janine Zacharia '95. - Not Coming

Middlebury faculty and visitors will engage the issues and lead discussions of the relationship between Judaism and Islam and the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian Arabs. We will begin with an examination of the two religions and their doctrinal differences. Then we will consider the relationships between Judaism and Zionism, and Islam and Arab nationalism, as well as the religious significance of the issues dividing the parties. We will conclude with a discussion of the prospects for peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict.

REGISTRATION FORM

Alumni College XXVII / August 28 to September 1, 2002
Please reserve a place for me.

Name: _____

Class: _____

and a place for my spouse/guest: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

My first choice is #_____ My second choice is #_____

Spouse/guest first choice is #_____

Spouse/guest second choice is #_____

Special housing needs? _____

"An excellent affair. I was very privileged to be a guest."

Fee
$450 all-inclusive cost per person (tuition, books, lodging, meals, and evening entertainment at Bread Loaf).

Method of payment
❒ Check payable to Middlebury College enclosed
❒ Visa ❒ MasterCard

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Cardholder's name: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Please send form with payment to:
Alumni and Parent Programs Office
Meeker House, 46 Porter Field Road
Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT 05753

Need more information, including childcare options? Contact Nellie Morison in the alumni and parent programs office at 802-443-5011 or morison@middlebury.edu